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Pennsylvania Press Release

PRESS RELEASE

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PENNSYLVANIA CATTLE INVENTORY DOWN 2 PERCENT

HARRISBURG -- Pennsylvania farmers had 1,640,000 cattle and calves on hand on January 1, 2000, 2 percent below the January 1, 1999 level of 1,670,000, according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service (PASS).

The Keystone State's calf crop for 1999 was 670,000, down 3 percent from 1998. All cows that have calved, at 760,000, was down 1 percent from the previous year. Milk cow inventory, at 619,000, remained unchanged from January 1, 1999. Beef cows totaled 141,000, down 7 percent from last year's number of 151,000. Milk cow replacement heifers 500 pounds and over, at 280,000, remain unchanged from last year's number. Beef cow replacement heifers, at 40,000, were 5 percent lower than last year.

Other heifers 500 pounds and over, at 40,000, were down 17 percent from January 1, 1999. Steers in the same weight category, at 165,000, were down 6 percent from last year. Bulls, at 25,000, were the same as January 1, 1999. All calves under 500 pounds, at 330,000, were unchanged last year.

There were 28,000 operations in Pennsylvania which had cattle, 11,000 operations with milk cows, and 11,300 operations with beef cows during 1999.

Primary data used in making cattle estimates for Pennsylvania and the United States were obtained from a sample of about 50,000 agricultural producers in the United States using probability surveys. Information was collected by mail, telephone and personal interview.

All cattle and calves in the **United States** as of January 1, 2000 totaled 98.0 million head, down 1 percent from 99.1 million on hand January 1, 1999 and down 2 percent from the 99.7 million two years ago. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 42.7 million, were slightly below last year and 1 percent below two years ago. Beef cows, at 33.5 million, were down 1 percent from January 1, 1999 and two years ago. Milk cows, at 9.19 million, were up 1 percent from January 1, 1999 and slightly below two years ago.

Other class estimates on January 1, 2000, and the changes from January 1 last year and two years ago, respectively, are as follows: all heifers 500 pounds and over, 19.5 million, down 1 percent and down 1 percent; beef replacement heifers, 5.53 million, down slightly and down 4 percent; milk replacement heifers, 3.95 million, down 3 percent and down 1 percent from two years ago; other heifers, 10.0 million, down 1 percent and slightly below two years ago; steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 16.7 million, down 1 percent and down 3 percent; bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.29 million, up 1 percent and up 1 percent; calves under 500 pounds, 16.8 million, down 3 percent and down 3 percent; all cattle and calves on feed for slaughter, 14.0 million, up 6 percent and up 3 percent from two years ago.

The 1999 U.S. calf crop was estimated at 38.7 million, down slightly from the 1998 calf crop and down 1 percent from 1997. Calves born during the first half of the year were estimated at 28.5 million, the same as 1998 but down slightly from 1997.